

Comments regarding: Senate Resolution No. 21 and House Resolution No.11 pertaining to Public Act 12-33

Submitted by Carl Noll on April 14, 2014

Address: 890 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825

Telephone: 203-334-5215

Good Morning:

My name is Carl Noll. I live in Fairfield, and have two disabled sons who are provided for by DDS Self Determination waiver grants. Eric has been served by this program for 18 plus years. My family is extremely satisfied with the self determination program and with the support which we have received from our DDS case workers over the years. Throughout that period of time, the wages provided by the home care workers (now called Personal Care Assistants) has been stagnant.

I come before you today to testify about the effect that the activity produced by Statute 12-33 might have on Self determination. I was selected and am actively serving on the Personal Care Assistant (PCA) Work Force Council created by this bill.

The bill states that there will be no impact whatever on the services that will be provided to self determination clients. In light of the cutbacks which have been applied to the DDS budgets, it seems unreasonable to expect that pay increases can be provided without a decrease in the time/services provided.

Time/service would also be negatively impacted by any dues or fees which would be imposed by the dues that are being applied by the union.

For many years, the goal among people advocating for more equitable wages for these PCAs, have always sought to move them closer to a level of pay, that a state employee doing similar work would earn. The resulting wage scales written into this contract which both houses of the legislature have just passed are a very feeble first attempt at trying to achieve that goal.

Recognizing the fiscal condition that Connecticut is in, and recognizing the motivation that Senator Bye's recent family oriented inspiration and initiative has given to the advocates of these people, I would strongly urge the Appropriations Committee to take a decisive step, and research the bill's true impact and fund this contract to it's maximum. Personally, I don't think this new family initiative is going away. Services are being eliminated. Future plans for the wellbeing of these our loved ones, are being eroded, and we, as a group DON'T LIKE IT. We ask you to take a bold and decisive step to fund both DDS and DSS to an equitable level with state employees.